(b) the details of such persons engaged in Government sector and private/organized sector;

(c) whether Government proposes to create jobs to employ physically challenged persons, to improve their socio-economic conditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As per the Census 2001, total no. of disabled persons in the country is 2.17 crore.

(b) As pre the available information, 645, 389 and 94 persons with disabilities were employed in the Central Government in years 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively which constitute 8.57%, 6.94% and 5.83% of all persons recruited in these years in the Central Government.

(c) to (e) Apart from providing reservation to persons with disabilities in Government establishments, efforts are being made to promote their employment in private sector. A new scheme for providing "Incentives to Employers for providing Employment to the Persons with Disabilities" has been launched from 01.04.2008. The scheme envisages payment of employer's contribution to Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) by the Government for the first three years for providing employment to persons with disabilities. The benefit of the scheme is for the persons with monthly wages up to Rs. 25,000/-.

Change in income limit of creamy layer of OBCs

287. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase the income limit of creamy layer of OBCs;

(b) if so, the proposals in this regard and by when an amendment to the relevant Act is proposed to be brought before the Parliament;

(c) whether Government proposes to increase the income limit of creamy layer among OBCs to Rs. 5,50,000/-, in view of the recent pay hike by the Central Government, State Governments and others so as to benefit the middle class among OBCs, who are the major aspirants for the central educational institutions such as IITs, NITs, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Government has decided on 3.10.2008 to raise the income limit for determining the creamy layer among Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from 2.5 lakhs to Rs. 4.5 lakhs.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.